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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0638MH-40874C

In re Application of:

**FREDERICK S.M. HERZ ET AL.**

Examiner: **MAHMOUDI, HASSAN**

Serial No. **09/699,098**

Art Unit: **2175**

Filed: **27 OCTOBER 2000**

For: **SECURE DATA INTERCHANGE**

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SEP 01 2004

Technology Center 2100

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated 23 April 2004 in which the Examiner issued a final rejection of Claim 3 of the pending application.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

**37 CFR § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit: *8/28/04*

By: *[Signature]*

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of allowing access to data over a distributed data processing system, comprising:

(a) providing an automated infrastructure for the exchange of information between multiple self-interested parties;

(b) providing a trusted server with at least one data warehouse for the storage of said information;

(c) associating a price rule with particular data records of said information which establishes a cost of accessing said particular data records, and which controls the access to that data;

(d) wherein said price rule enables a data owner associated with said data to specify a different price for different types and amounts of information access;

(e) within said trusted server, providing a data processing platform which is accessible to multiple third-party data processing software programs which operate as software agents;

(f) wherein a plurality of seller-side software agents have defined relationships to said price rules and associated data records, and maintain absolute access control to said data records;

(g) wherein a plurality of buyer-side software agents have regulated query access to said data processing platform and may request pricing information from said seller-side software agents;

(h) wherein said plurality of seller-side software agents and said plurality of

buyer-side software agents operate as persistent data processing systems which interact with one another repeatedly over time and which thus define a virtual marketplace.